

CIELAP's 2005 Partnering for Sustainability Conference

**Working Towards Sustainable Urban Communities:
Real People, Real Issues, Real Solutions...the Power of Partnerships**

The King Edward Hotel
Thursday October 27th & Friday October 28th, 2005
Toronto, ON

This conference, the third in an on-going series, will be a meeting place for top thinkers and actors to explore, discuss, and initiate partnerships for sustainable communities. Canadian and international leaders from business, civil society, government, media, and academia will convene at this event to learn from each other, find common ground, take action, and benchmark Canada's progress towards sustainability.

This event will focus on exploring how multi-sectoral partnerships can advance sustainability in urban communities. Speakers will include leading practitioners of partnerships for sustainability in urban areas. Through dedicated speaking sessions, panels, and issue showcases, speakers from all sectors will:

- Explore the definition of a sustainable community
- Benchmark Canada's progress towards sustainable communities
- Share the most innovative examples of sustainability partnerships within cities
- Consider many of the elements necessary to make communities sustainable, from poverty and food to energy and infrastructure
- Discuss how successful partnerships have been formed, what qualities make effective partnerships, how each partnership achieved those qualities, and what the major challenges of partnerships are.

Discussions will be interactive and engage all delegates to catalyze collaborative action. Delegates and speakers alike will leave this event with new insights, examples, connections, ideas, and plans to propel our communities towards sustainability.

DAY 1, Thursday October 27th

8:00 Registration and coffee

8:45 Welcome Message from Conference Organizers and Conference Chair **Michael Keating**

9:00 Keynote Address by **Alan Tonks (confirmed), Member of Parliament and Chair of the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development
“What is a Sustainable Community?”**

This conference will focus on using partnerships to advance sustainable communities; but what is a sustainable community? Hear from one of Canada’s leading sustainability thinkers and actors about defining and benchmarking sustainability in urban communities, and the role of partnerships in achieving it.

Topics that will be addressed include:

- The elements of a sustainable community
 - Do sustainable urban communities exist?
 - Examples of best practices in sustainable communities from around the world
 - The role of partnerships in creating sustainable communities
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9:45 Government Panel on the Role of Partnerships in Building Sustainable Communities: Benchmarking Canadian Progress

Panelists Include:

Neil Maxwell, Principal, Office of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development

David Ramsay, Ontario Minister of Natural Resources

Levinia Brown, Deputy Premier of Nunavut and Minister of Community and Government Services

Clive Doucet, Ottawa City Councillor

Moderator: **Susan Holtz, Senior Policy Analyst, CIELAP**

This panel will discuss:

- How Canada is progressing towards sustainability and what role partnerships play in advancing sustainable communities
- Best practices for partnerships that involve government
- How far Canada, provinces, territories and cities have come towards sustainability (and where we still need to go)

- How Canada ranks compared to other countries and what goals we have set for ourselves
 - Canada's progress towards our Kyoto commitments
 - What we are doing to reduce poverty and homelessness, and how we could do more
 - How partnerships are helping economic development to become greener
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11:00 Mid-Morning Networking Reception

11:30 Keynote Address by **Gro Harlem Brundtland** (confirmed) , former Director General of the World Health Organization and former Prime Minister of Norway
“Sustainability, Health and Partnerships”

12:15 Lunch

1:15 Energy Showcase: Finding ways to reduce our demand for energy and make it cleaner, greener, and more affordable

Featured Partnerships:

The Smart Commute Initiative - a partnership of 11 regional and municipal governments across the GTA and Hamilton, as well as the Federal Government, non-profit groups, and businesses who are working to make commuting more energy efficient through options including car and vanpools, special shuttle services, and tele-working.

The **Toronto Renewable Energy Co-op** – a non-profit organization that works to promote awareness and implementation of renewable energy resources, including partnering with its affiliate, Windshare, and Toronto Hydro Energy Services to put up the first utility scale urban wind turbines in North America.

Bullfrog Power - Ontario's first 100% green electricity retailer that works with renewable energy suppliers to provide consumers with an ecologically sound mix of energy alternatives.

GreenSaver - a not-for-profit, community based organization founded in 1992 who works in many partnerships to motivate and facilitate the process of maximizing the energy efficiency of homes and small businesses.

Topics for discussion include:

- Increasing the viability of alternative energy sources in both residential and community settings
- Using the Kyoto Protocol to make clean and efficient energy more viable
- Reducing household and commercial demand for energy

- Creating opportunities for making Canada's green energy sector more competitive
 - Increasing the use of public transportation to reduce energy demands
 - Reducing demand for transportation through smart planning and more integrated systems
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3:00 Afternoon Coffee Break

3:30 Waste: Using partnerships to produce less, make better use of what is produced, and manage the rest in a sustainable way

Featured Partnerships:

The Edmonton Waste Management Centre of Excellence- a unique public-private partnership that works to advance research, technology demonstration, and training in waste management.

The Product Stewardship Institute – a non-profit organization that works with state and local government agencies to partner with manufacturers, retailers, environmental groups, federal agencies, and other key stakeholders to solve waste management problems in retail products by encouraging product design changes and mediating stakeholder dialogues.

Integrated Gas Recovery Services Inc- a partnership between Comcor Environmental Limited and Integrated Municipal Services Inc. which develops landfill gas utilization projects including both direct use and electricity generation applications.

Rainy River Watershed Program Waste Management – an organization that works in partnership to further the sustainable management of waste in both the Maintou Rapids community, which is part of the Rainy Rivers First Nation, and also in the Rainy River District as a whole.

Topics for discussion include:

- Reducing production costs or creating new sources of profit by reducing and redirecting waste
 - Incorporating the principles of extended producer responsibility
 - Creating jobs through waste management
 - Designing for reuse
 - Redirecting potential resources from the waste stream
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5:15 Wrap Up and Review of the Day- Michael Keating

7:00 CIELAP 35th Anniversary Reception
(Please visit www.cielap.org/35anniversary.html for further details)

DAY 2, Friday October 28th

8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 Opening Remarks from the Conference Chair

9:30 Keynote address by **David Batstone (confirmed), Journalist and Author of **Saving the Corporate Soul****

““How Corporations Can Be Responsible Partners for Sustainable Communities”

10:15 Networking Reception

10:45 Spotlight Partnership:

The Commission for Environmental Cooperation's Pollutant Release Transfer Register Partnership

A partnership across borders and between regulators, industry and the public to track pollutant releases and inform action at many levels.

11:00 Communications, Marketing and Education for Sustainability

Media and marketing have tremendous power to shift perceptions and raise awareness. How can sustainability practitioners communicate with the media and with consumers to share new perspectives and stories about sustainable communities? What is the role of communications in advancing sustainable communities?

Speakers include:

Rick Boychuk, Editor of Canadian Geographic Magazine

Joe Chidley, Editor of Canadian Business

Tyler Hamilton, business reporter and technology columnist with the Toronto Star

Scott McDougal, President and CEO of Terra Choice Environmental Marketing

Moderator: **Brenda O'Connor, Senior Planning Advisor, Strategic Policy, Environment Canada**

Topics for discussion include:

- Communicating your messages in a compelling way
- How to access media channels
- Getting your message heard

12:30 Lunch

1:15 Spotlight: Habitat Jam an innovative global e-conversation and consultation on the future of the world's cities leading up to the UN Habitat World Urban Forum

1:30 Water Management: Reducing demand and improving quality, access and sustainability

Hear from representatives of the most innovative partnerships worldwide about how partnerships can increase access to safe and clean water, reduce water pollution, and reduce demand for water in urban communities. Speakers will explain how their partnerships formed, how they work, and what they have accomplished.

Featured Partnerships:

The Lake Champlain Basin Program – a partnership between government agencies from New York, Vermont, and Quebec, private organizations, local communities, and individuals to coordinate and fund efforts that benefit the Lake Champlain Basin's water quality, fisheries, wetlands, wildlife, recreation, and cultural resources.

Water Efficiency Durham – Water Efficiency Durham's mandate is to encourage efficient use of water among all water users.

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority – The authority which works in Toronto for the protection, enhancement, and regeneration of natural resources on a watershed basis, community action on environmental projects, and provides outdoor recreation opportunities on 13,000 hectares of open space, forest lands, and Conservation Areas, and conservation education and heritage programs

Topics to be discussed include:

- Increasing infrastructure for providing clean water and sewage services to households
 - Reducing demand for water
 - Managing common water resources in a sustainable way
 - Improving waste water treatment
 - Reducing effluent production
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3:30 Closing Remarks by Conference Chair

This agenda is subject to change.